

Performers Information

American Indian Music Fest, January 30-31, 2010
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument



Scott August

Native American Music Award winner, and three time nominee, Scott August is a nationally acclaimed composer, producer, keyboardist and Native American flute player. His music has been featured on nationally syndicated radio shows as well as digital networks. August has been a headline performer at the Zion Canyon Flute Festival and Central Coast Flute Festival and has composed music and sound design for hundreds of films, commercials, and video projects for clients such as NASA, The Discovery Channel, and HBO. The Los Angeles Times has called his music “shimmering and luminous.” August’s CDs—*Distant Spirits*, the Native American Music Award winning *Sacred Dreams*, *New Fire*, *Lost Canyons*, and *Ancient Lights*—will be available for sale at the Music Fest. August’s new CD, *Radiant Sky*, will be released in February.



Gabriel Ayala

A member of the Yaqui people of southern Arizona, Gabriel Ayala is at the forefront of a new generation of Native Americans making a career performing classical music. He began playing the guitar as a child, earned a Master’s Degree in Music Performance from the University of Arizona, has taught at all educational levels, and serves as a competition adjudicator. Ayala performs regularly throughout the country and internationally, including appearances at the Kennedy Center for the Arts and National Museum for the American Indian. He is a regular performer at the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque. Ayala also maintains connection to his cultural roots through traditional singing and dancing. Ayala has released several albums which will be available for sale at the Music Fest.



Randy Granger

A native of New Mexico with Mestizo, Mesoamerican ancestry, specifically the Chol people, descendants of the Maya, as well as Apache and Athabascan heritage, Randy Granger is an award winning recording, touring, and performing artist. Granger is the 2009 Indian Summer Music Award Winner in the Native American Flute category. He is also a composer, songwriter, singer, and music instructor, as well as a published poet who performs at festivals and in concert throughout the country. Granger’s recordings and music have garnered critical praise and recognition and is heard worldwide on radio, satellite and internet radio stations. Granger performs on the Native American flute, Buffalo drum, voice, and an unusual instrument called a hang drum, which produces an ethereal melodic sound. His CD, *A Place Called Peace*, and others will be available for sale in his exhibit booth at the Music Fest.



Alex Maldonado

A tribal member of the Pascua Yaqui Nation, Alex Maldonado is a self-taught musician who has been making and playing the flute since 1991. He balances his time between his artwork, demonstrations, and performing music. Alex performs both solo and with his daughter Melissa and son Nicholas. All of the songs on his three CDs—*Messages from the Past*, *Desert Breeze*, and *Maso* (which is a collaboration with his daughter Melissa)—are self-composed. He uses the flute to recall the events, dreams and stories that brought him into his music. Alex also makes native drums, rattles, and masks, several of which are exhibited in museums. His Yaqui heritage is a big influence in his life, Alex says, and “in playing the flute, I feel a connection in finding out more about my people and myself.” Alex is a three-time nominee in the Native American Music Awards who has captivated audiences through the country with his music.



Flavio Martinez

Flavio is a professional musician and founder of the band NOSOTROS. Flavio also performs as a soloist playing traditional flutes, especially the panpipe flutes from South-America. Flavio became “enchanted” by the exotic and haunting sounds of the panpipe flute in Mexico and says it “*Is amazing how you can create beautiful music with such simple reed pipes.*” He uses a wide variety of flutes such as quena, quenacho, panpipe flute, sikus, sanku, malta, ika, ocarina, rondador, etc. in his performances. The songs he plays range from soothing and easy sounds to joyful and festive ones. His repertoire includes not only Andean music but Latin Pop and International music. Flavio currently teaches music in a public school and performs around the southwest mainly in concerts and festivals.



Nathalie Picard

A Huron-Wendat professional Native American flute player, storyteller, and singer, Nathalie Shendaèhwas Picard is from Wendake, the Huron-Wendat Indian reservation close to Quebec in Canada. She has been playing the Native American Indian flute in a traditional style for more than 10 years and singing traditional songs with the drum. Nathalie studied jazz and pop music (transverse flute) at University of Montreal, Latin jazz with Richard Egues in Cuba and Nestor Torres at Florida International University, and at the Conservatory of Quebec. Nathalie has performed in the U.S., Canada and Europe, and looks forward to sharing Iroquoian culture and songs with people of the Southwest. Nathalie also performs with professional musician and flute maker, Dennis dg Hatch, a member of the Sault Ste Marie, Michigan Chippewa Indian Tribe in their new duo called “Visions of Sound.”



Loren Russell

Loren Russell is Akimel O’odham, enrolled with the Gila River Indian Community. Russell is well acquainted with the traditions of the Akimel O’odham and many other American Indian tribes. He has performed as a storyteller and musician at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument for several years and is currently a storyteller and flute player at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort. Russell will bring his experience and his own versions of stories gleaned from his family history into his presentation. He has been encouraged in playing the Native American flute by mentors such as Douglas Spotted Eagle. He is the Grandson of Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame member, Anna Moore Shaw.



Travis Terry

Native American flutist and popular recording artist Travis Terry is Akimel O’odham, born in Sacaton, Arizona as a member of the Gila River Indian Community, near Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. We are honored to have Travis Terry serve as master of ceremonies for this year’s Music Fest. A self-taught musician, Terry’s natural appreciation for American Indian musician originated from a childhood surrounded by music and instruments of long ago, including the Native American flute. Terry writes the majority of songs he performs with inspiration from his indigenous O’odham culture, the heritage of the Dine (Navajo), and his love of special places such as Canyon de Chelly where he now lives with his wife Cara, a member of the Navajo Nation. The conscious blending of culture is reflected in Terry’s compositions and playing style. Travis’s CDs—*Monument Valley*, *Canyon Shadows* and *Echoes of the Canyon Wall*—will be available for sales at the Music Fest. His other recordings include *Navajoland* with Alain Briot, and a new DVD, *Sacred Places*, produced at the USS Arizona Memorial.



The River People Basket Dancers

The River People Basket Dancers are from Blackwater, Arizona, in the Gila River Indian Community. The group has performed traditional Akimel O’odham dances since 1984. Barnaby Lewis is the main singer for the group. We are honored that for the second year the River People Basket Dancers will welcome visitors to the American Indian Music Fest at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, the home of their ancestors.



The Hashan-Kehk Traditional Dancers and Singers

The Hashan-Kehk Traditional Dancers and Singers, from the Gila River Indian Community, have been together for ten years and have traveled extensively throughout the Gila River region and Arizona. They ask the each and everyone take the blessings of the songs and dances with them and within their hearts.